

***APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR FACILITATING DATA PACKET
TRANSPORTATION***

Abstract of the Disclosure

Embodiments of the present invention described and shown in the specification
5 and drawings facilitate data packet transportation. One aspect of the invention
multiplexes time-sensitive TDM (Time Division Multiplexed) and other synchronous
data, and asynchronous data traffic, onto a communication channel in a manner that
minimizes jitter in the delivery of the TDM data traffic while efficiently transporting
asynchronous data traffic. Another aspect of the invention provides dynamic bandwidth
10 sharing on a communication ring. The dynamic bandwidth sharing aspect of the present
invention facilitates the efficient utilization of bandwidth of communication rings,
particularly in those rings that cover large geographic areas.